

functions of the camera to be performed;

an image pickup unit for capturing an image of an object;

a recorder for recording the image captured by the image pickup unit on a recording medium;

a playback unit having a display for at least playing back image information that is recorded on the recording medium; and

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Amel a mode selector for selecting one operation mode of the camera from a plurality of available operation modes that include an operation explanation mode,

wherein if the operation explanation mode is selected at the mode selector, the playback unit plays back on the display an operation guide that is pre-stored in a memory, the operation guide explaining at least one of the external operations and corresponding camera functions thereof and wherein at least the operation input unit, the recorder, the display, and the mode selector are enclosed within a main camera body.

9. (Amended) The electronic camera according to claim 1, wherein the playback unit further comprises a sound reproducing device, and plays back the operation guide in the form of sound.

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10. (Amended) The electronic camera according to claim 1, wherein the playback unit plays back the operation guide on the display in the form of images.

14. (Three Times Amended) An electronic camera, comprising:

an image pickup unit for capturing an image of an object;

a recorder for recording the image captured by the image pickup unit on a recording medium;

a playback unit having a display for at least playing back image information that is recorded on the recording medium;

C3 a mode selector for selecting a function diagnosis mode; and

a function tester for testing functions of the camera if the function diagnosis mode is selected by the mode selector, the functions of the camera to be tested including functions of at least one of the image pickup unit, the recorder, and the playback unit, wherein at least the recorder, the display, the mode selector, and the function tester are enclosed within a main camera body.

16. (Amended) The electronic camera according to claim 14, wherein the playback unit further comprises a sound reproducing device, and plays back image information that is recorded on the recording medium in accordance with an external operation specifying a playback function of the playback unit, and wherein while the camera is set to the function diagnosis mode by the mode selector, the function tester tests the playback function of the playback unit specified by the external operation.

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18. (Twice Amended) An electronic camera having a plurality of functions including capturing and recording images, the electronic camera comprising:

a mode selector externally switchable to select one of a function diagnosis mode and a normal mode;

an operation input unit for inputting external operations that initiate corresponding functions of the camera while the camera is in the normal mode;

an image pickup unit for capturing the image of an object in accordance with the external operations inputted through the operation unit while the camera is in the normal mode;

05 a recorder for recording the image captured by the image pickup unit in accordance with the external operations inputted through the operation input unit while the camera is in the normal mode;

a playback unit having a display for at least playing back image information that is recorded on the recording medium in accordance with the external operations inputted through the operation input unit while the camera is in the normal mode; and

a function tester for testing functions of at least one of the operation input unit, the image pickup unit, the recorder, and the playback unit, when the function diagnosis mode is selected by the mode selector, wherein at least the mode selector, the operation input unit, the recorder, the display, and the function tester are enclosed within a main camera body.

21. (Twice Amended) An electronic camera having a plurality of functions including capturing and recording images, the electronic camera comprising:

24 and a mode selector externally switchable to select one of an operation explanation mode, a

function diagnosis mode, and a normal mode;

an operation input unit for inputting external operations that initiate corresponding functions of the camera while the camera is in the normal mode;

an image pickup unit for capturing the image of an object in accordance with the external operations inputted through the operation input unit while the camera is in the normal mode;

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a recorder for recording the image captured by the image pickup unit in accordance with the external operations inputted through the operation input unit while the camera is in the normal mode;

a playback unit having a display for at least playing back image information that is recorded on the recording medium in accordance with the external operations inputted through the operation input unit while the camera is in the normal mode; and

a function tester for testing functions of at least one of the operation input unit, the image pickup unit, the recorder, and the playback unit, when the function diagnosis mode is selected by the mode selector,

wherein if the operation explanation mode is selected at the mode selector, the playback unit plays back an operation guide that is pre-stored in a memory, the operation guide explaining at least one of the camera operations and functions thereof and wherein at least the operation input unit, the recorder, the display, and the function tester are enclosed within a main camera body.

22. (Twice Amended) An electronic camera having a plurality of functions including capturing and recording images, comprising:

input means for inputting external operations that designate corresponding functions of the camera to be performed;

capture means for capturing an image of an object;

recording means for recording the image captured by the capturing means on a recording medium;

playback means having a display for playing back image information that is recorded on the recording means; and

selecting means for selecting an operation mode of the camera from a plurality of available operation modes, where one operation mode is an operation explanation mode,

wherein if the operation explanation mode is selected at the selecting means, the playback means plays back an operation guide that is pre-stored in a memory, the operation guide explaining at least one of the external operations and corresponding camera functions thereof and wherein at least the input means, the recording means, and the selecting means are enclosed within a main camera body.

23. (Three Times Amended) An electronic camera, comprising:

capturing means for capturing an image of an object;

recording means for recording the image captured by the capturing means on a recording medium;

playback means having a display for playing back image information that is recorded on

the recording medium;

selecting means for selecting a function diagnosis mode; and

CS and testing means for testing functions of the camera if the function diagnosis mode is selected by the selecting means, the functions of the camera to be tested including functions of at least one of the capturing means, the recording means, and the playback means, wherein at least the recording means, the selecting means, and the testing means are enclosed within a main camera body.
